

REMARKS

Claims 32, 33, 36, 37, 48-52 and 61-75, are pending in the instant application. Withdrawn claims 1-24, 38-47, and 53-60 were canceled as they are directed to non-elected subject matter. Claims 36, 37, 48-51, and 61-75 are allowed. In order to simplify the issues, and to pursue preferred embodiments of the invention, and to present the case for allowance, claims 32, 33, and 52 were cancelled without prejudice to the prosecution thereof in a subsequent application. No new matter was added by these amendments. Applicant believes the case is in condition for allowance.

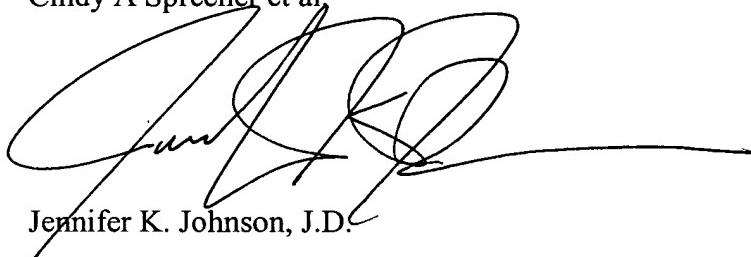
A. Rejections Addressed from November 13, 2003 Office Action (OA)**(1) Rejection of claims 32, 33 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)**

Claims 32, 33 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Novak, et al., (US Patent No. 6,307,024, October 23, 2001; filed March 9 2000). (OA, p. 2-3) As claims 32, 33 and 52 have been canceled this rejection is moot as applied thereto. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) of instant claims 32, 33 and 52 be properly withdrawn and the case allowed.

Early reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested. If the Patent Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of this patent application, please call the undersigned at (206) 442-6676.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy A Sprecher et al.

A handwritten signature consisting of several loops and curves, appearing to read "Cindy A. Sprecher et al."

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Enclosures:

Amendment Fee Transmittal (in duplicate)

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